

Cedar River Instream Flow Commission

Final Minutes

SPU Water Quality Lab

January 7th, 2009

Organizations/Members Present:

- Seattle Public Utilities (Rand Little, Karl Burton)
- King County Dept. of Natural Resources and Parks (Steve Hirschey)
- Muckleshoot Tribe (Holly Coccoli)
- NOAA Fisheries (Tom Sibley)
- Seattle City Light (Liz Ablow)
- Washington Department of Ecology (Jay Cook)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Mark Hunter)

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- I. Call to Order:** Rand called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.
 - II. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved without changes.
 - III. Approval of Draft Minutes from the November meeting:** December minutes were approved and finalized without changes.
 - IV. News and Notes:** Rand told the IFC that Tom Fox was not able to make the meeting due to pressing flood management duties. Rand said that Lynne and Larry from the Corps will also miss the meeting for the same reason.

Steve said that a summary report from the recent workshop regarding instream flow and viable salmonid populations will be available soon. Rand reported that Chuck Clarke (SPU Director) will be leaving the City of Seattle on January 17th to become the CEO of the Cascade Water Alliance. Steve mentioned that the Washington State Legislature will be working on bills for reclaimed water and exempt wells in the next legislative session. Holly said that the Muckleshoot Tribe supports limiting exempt wells when municipal water is available. Steve also said that the budget will be the dominant issue for the legislature and the governor's new budget does not include additional funds for water rights processing. Steve reported that the State Supreme Court had not yet decided to hear the Municipal Water Law case. Mark reported that WDFW is anticipating that its budget cuts may be in the range of 25%.

V. Real Time Water Management

Hydrologic Conditions for Tolt and Cedar: Rand reported that rainfall in both the Tolt and Cedar Basins was above average for the months of November and December. Diversions are slightly below the long term average. Chester Morse Reservoir elevation was nearing the dynamic rule curve before the heavy rain started recently. SPU is predicting that the current storm will raise the elevation of Chester Morse Lake to at least elevation 1563 feet. The averages of the SNOTEL readings in both watersheds (as of last Monday) were near average for this time of year. SPU met all flow compliance requirements in December and Rand reminded the IFC that all supplemental flow targets had been met in all supplemental flow periods for the last 3 years in a row. There were no downramping rate violations in December. Estimated natural flows were very close to actual flows for December due to the fact that SPU had been releasing water to maintain the flood pocket.

During the recent cold spell, consumption is believed to have increased because people were running taps to keep pipes from rupturing and the pipes that did rupture contributed to water use. Currently, consumption is back down to normal and is closely tracking the consumption line from 2008. Total annual diversion for 2008 is very close to that of 2007. Steve and Holly suggested that we explore using averages from other periods such as 1998 to 2007; or some type of rolling average.

Lake Washington: Rand spoke with Lynne Melder from the Corps and she reported that the current elevation of Lake Washington is approximately 20 feet, the target elevation for winter. Lynne also said that the Corps will give the IFC a presentation on the recently deployed fish screens and the plan for a more permanent long-term fix for the problem with salmon entrainment at the Locks.

Fish Update: Karl reviewed the results of the Chinook redd dewatering vulnerability analysis for 2008. The analysis predicted that 2 out of approximately 600 observed Chinook redds would be partially dewatered at minimum winter flows of 260 cfs (USGS gage below Landsburg Diversion). Karl mentioned that one of the two vulnerable redds was predicted to begin dewatering at 262 cfs and would likely not have any mortality associated with winter minimum flows. However, the other redd was predicted to require 296 cfs to remain fully inundated. Karl used data collected after the high flow event in November to make sure the analysis represented the actual redd depths since high flows can flatten redd topography.

Rand reported that there have been relatively large numbers of coho over Landsburg this year and it looks likely that the final total will be higher than any other year since fish passage was completed in 2003. Currently, Approximately 300 adult coho have

passed above the Landsburg Dam this year. Most of fish are of natural origin and about half are female.

Forecasts and Water Supply Outlook: Since Larry was busy with flood control duties, Rand truncated this part of the meeting but he did state that current conditions were favorable for SPU to provide the spring supplemental flows for sockeye outmigration and to protect the vulnerable Chinook redds.

VI. Update on Supplemental Studies:

Otolith Study: The initial report for year-2 of the otolith study is complete and the authors will give a presentation at the March meeting on a proposed scope for the next phase of the project..

IHA Flow Data Set: Rand reported that nhc had a little more work to do on the flow data sets before they will be ready to present their work to the IFC. They should be ready to present at the February meeting. They will be presenting their 30-year data sets that were generated using a STELLA model. The data sets cover pre-development (before flow regulation) and post development data sets generated using weather data from 1977 to 2006. Rand provided a list of data sets, associated explanations regarding data set generation and examples of output from the most recent model verification runs in order to introduce the IFC to some key general concepts before the presentation. Rand will attempt to distribute the final materials 2 weeks before the presentation.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- 1) Presentation of Pre- and Post-Development flow data sets
- 2) Final Report on Otolith Study Phase 1
- 3) Scope of work on Peak Flow AMP
- 4) Update on fish screens at Locks

IX. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM